



## 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc.

### Spring 2025 President's Letter

**"We're in a good place!"**

Dear 10th Mountain Division Descendants and Friends,

I am happy to report that our organization is in a good place. By that I mean that we are on solid financial footing, we're seeing our membership growing, and we've reinvigorated our good works efforts. Given my short tenure as President, I'm not going to take credit for this state of affairs. We are here because of the hard work of the previous Board. I have been lucky to inherit the responsibility to build upon the work that they did.

In my first quarter as President, I had the pleasure of attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Ski-in hosted by the Rocky Mountain Chapter. The Rocky Mountain Chapter did their usual outstanding job of organizing this event, and the weather gods generally blessed us. The ski day at Copper Mountain turned into a scramble to make it over the summit back to Leadville during a blizzard, but the resulting snow from that storm made for a memorable ski day at Ski Cooper the following day. As usual descendants were joined by active-duty 10<sup>th</sup> soldiers, Colorado National Guard soldiers as well as Special Forces soldiers. The chance to share chair lift with them was enlightening and reinforced to me what remarkable, dedicated young people make up our armed forces. The celebration dinner held at the Freight Hotel and Cabins in Leadville was a great way to end the ski day. The live music, dinner and live auction made for a fantastic evening. For those who made it to Vail Legacy Days, the celebration of all things 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain continued for two more days. If you haven't made it to the Ski-in, you must. You don't need to be a skier to enjoy it, just a willingness to tolerate some cold mountain air and a bit of snow.

It hasn't been all play these first few months. There are several new initiatives that we have begun. Two of them center expanding our efforts on 10<sup>th</sup> scholarships, the third has to do with how we fund our good works initiatives, and the fourth initiative is focused on the development of a marketing/fundraising plan. I will share the details of these initiatives once the Board has had a chance to weigh in, and we can articulate a clear path forward.

The final details of the 2025 Return to Italy Trip have been worked out, and we are still accepting registrations for the trip. This year's trip will commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe), and will be enhanced by the insights of Chris Juergens, a military historian and former Curator of Military History at History Colorado. Here's a link to the Italy Trip page on our website:

<https://10thmtndivdesc.org/italy-trip/>

I am also happy to announce that we have created a new position of Director of Communications for the Descendants. I am even more excited to announce that we have already found a very capable person to take on that responsibility, John Andrews. John brings a strong IT background to the job and has already been at work on our website. As we move forward, John will be taking on more of the communications roles that are currently spread across multiple people. We hope that by doing so, we'll have better focused and consistent messaging to you, our membership, as well as the general public.

My last item is an appeal for help. Karen LaNoue, our VP of Membership has been handling all the operational details of enrolling new Descendant members as well as renewing existing members. This entails a lot of different tasks, and she is asking for help with one of those tasks, producing the eCards that get issued with each new membership or renewal. If you are willing to consider helping in this way or know someone else who might help us, please contact me or Karen ([karen.lanou@10thmtndivdesc.org](mailto:karen.lanou@10thmtndivdesc.org)).

Sempre Avanti!

Ron Sawdey, President  
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